

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 IO-11

SAM-01 SAB-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

AID-05 DHA-02 /091 W

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P R 121932Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 749

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1836

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS 993

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS 170

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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FOR DALE GOOD, S/IL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, ICFTU, IN

SUBJECT: ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, ROUND 2

1. SUMMARY: LATIN AMERICA, SPAIN AND THE MIDDLE EAST WERE AMONG THE PRINCIPAL ISSUES DISCUSSED DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG. THE DEBATE ON INDIA WAS TERMINATED WITH A DECISION TO REFER THE MATTER TO THE ICFTU'S ASIAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION (ARO) FOR FURTHER STUDY. DE-LIBERATIONS ON LATIN AMERICA CENTERED ON CHILE WITH THE ONLY REFERENCE TO THE ORIT SITUATION COMING IN THE CONTEXT OF A ROUTINE REPORT BY ORIT GENERAL SECRETARY ETCHEVERRY WHICH WAS ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMMENT. CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ARAB AND ISRAELI BOARD MEMBERS WAS SPARKED BY TUNISIAN UGT LEADER ACHOUR WHO CHARGED THAT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED AFTER THE RETURN OF ALL ISRAELI HELD ARAB TERRITORIES. THE TEXT OF A STRONGLY WORDED EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION ON SPAIN AND A REPORT ON DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO ITS ADOPTION IS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY. END SUMMARY.

2. INDIA. A NIGHT'S SLEEP AND EXTENSIVE BEHIND-THE-SCENES EFFORT TO AMELIORATE THE CONFLICT TOOK SOME OF THE STEAM OUT OF THE DEBATE ON INDIA DURING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECOND AND FINAL DAY OF THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH VARIOUS BOARD MEMBERS WE LEARNED THAT AN APOLOGY BY NEW ZEALANDER KNOX TO INTUC LEADER DIKSHIT FOR HIS STRONG ATTACK THE PREVIOUS DAY ALSO HELPED DIFFUSE THE ISSUE WHICH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD DECIDED TO REFER TO THE ICFTU'S ASIAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR FURTHER STUDY. THE ARO HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO

THE ICFTU SECRETARIAT IN DUE TIME.

3. MIDDLE EAST. TUNISIA'S HABIB ACHOUR PRECIPITATED A BITTER EXCHANGE BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF ISRAEL'S HISTRADRUT AND LEBANESE LEADER GEORGES SACHS WHEN IN AN ATTACK ON ISRAEL HE ASSERTED THAT THE RETURN OF ALL ISRAELI HELDARAB TERRITORY IS A PREREQUISITE FOR PEACE IN THE AREA. WHEN THE DEBATE SHOWED SIGNS OF SPREADING TO OTHER MIDDLE EAST ISSUES, ENZO FRIZON, AN ICFTU SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL, INTERVENED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE ICFTU'S MOSLEM AND CATHOLIC AFFILIATES IN LEBANON HAD SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT LEBANON SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED AT THE BOARD MEETING BECAUSE IT IS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR. BY UNANIMOUS EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION THE MATTER WAS DROPPED.

4. LATIN AMERICA. THE ORIT ISSUE WAS NOT RAISED DURING THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING. A ROUTINE REPORT BY ORIT GENERAL SECRETARY ETCHEVERRY WAS ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMMENT. A POST-EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING BETWEEN TOP OFFICIALS OF THE ICFTU SECRETARIAT AND LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATES IS NOW TAKING PLACE. THE MISION LABOR ATTACHE HAS A MEETING SCHEDULED WITH THE LATIN AMERICANS THIS EVENING (MARCH 12), THE RESULTS OF WHICH WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPTTEL. IN ADDITION TO ETCHEVERRY, LATIN AMERICANS IN LUXEMBOURG ARE VELASQUEZ, MEXICO, CARANZA, ARGENTINA, AND MALAVA VILLABA, VENEZUELA.

5. CHILE. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN CHILE AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH. ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARIAT KERSTEN ANNOUNCED TO THE MEETING THAT CONFIDENTIAL ICFTU DOCUMENTS WERE STOLEN FROM THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LUGGAGE OF CUT EXILE LEADER MENEZES TWO WEEKS AGO IN PARIS AND THAT SENSITIVE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE DOCUMENTS HAS SINCE APPEARED IN THE CHILEAN PRESS. KERSTEN EXPLAINED THAT AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE NO DOCUMENTATION ON CHILE WAS INCLUDED IN THE WORKING PAPERS PREPARED FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO READ FROM A REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS OF THE ICFTU AND CUT CHILE COMMITTEE AND AGAIN REPEATED THE STATISTICS ON US AID TO CHILE REPORTED SEPTTEL. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED KERSTEN'S REPORT WHICH WE ARE INFORMED CALLS FOR ADDITIONAL ICFTU FINANCIAL AID FOR THE FAMILIES OF IMPRISONED AND EXILED CHILEAN TRADE UNIONISTS. WE WERE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD BY A SECRETARIAT SOURCE THAT MENEZES RECENTLY PRMITTED HIS WIFE TO RETURN TO

CHILE TO VISIT HER FAMILY, AN ACTION WHICH HAS CAUSED
CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AT ICFTU HEADQUARTERS ABOUT HER
WELFARE AND "MENEZES' STUPIDITY."

6. THERE WAS ALSO DISCUSSION AT THE BOARD MEETING
CONCERNING PORTUGAL, NIGERIA, ETHIOPIA AND THE STATE
OF ICFTU FINANCES. KERSTEN HAS PROMISED TO GIVE
DETAILS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS AT A MEETING OF
BRUSSELS -BASED LABOR ATTACHES EARLY NEXT WEEK. KERSTEN
ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE EXECU-
TIVE BOARD MEETING THAT THE ICFTU WAS PLEASED TO LEARN
THAT THREE ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION LEADERS INCLUDING
ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER SOLOMON HAD BEEN RE-
LEASED FROM JAIL. HINTON

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